cial help for the construction of sea walls to prevent sea erosion along its coastal lines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has been extending loan assistance to Kerala for undertaking protection works to check sea erosion of vulnerable sections of the coast-line.

An expenditure of Rs. 83.14 crores had been incurred up to March, 1988 for protection of coast-line. Of this Central loan assistance amounts to Rs. 42.12 crores.

Israeli consul at Bombay

*34. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow the Israeli Consul at Bombay to resume his duties; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) A Consul is already in position in the Israeli Consulate in Bombay.

(b) The posting was agreed to in response to a routine request to fill in the existing vacancy in the Consulate.

Crisis in matscience institute

*35. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in a section of the press regarding crisis in Matscience Institute (Institute of Mathematical Sciences);

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint a full time Director for the Institute; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government has seen the report. It is not correct to say that there is a crisis in the Institute. However, there were some issues relating to administration which required to be sorted out which was done by the Board of Governors of the Institute which met on 15th July 1988.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration.

Central assistance for minor irrigation sub-plans of tribal areas

*36. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of tribal population out of the total population in the State of Orissa;

(b) the percentage of funds being allocated by State Irrigation Department of tribal area for minor irrigation sub-plans of the State;

(c) whether the Central Government have given the approval for the use of special Central assistance to supplement the plan funds of Orissa Government for minor irrigation of tribal area sub-plan;

(d) whether Government propose to treat the minor irrigation programme of the State as tribal family benefit oriented scheme and provide proportionate special Central aid to supplement the funds; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As per 1981 Census, it is 22.43 per cent.

(b) The allocation to the tribal area subplan in the minor irrigation sector works out to 25.6 per cent under the Seventh Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Minor Irrigation is treated as one of the family oriented-cum-income generating schemes for which special Central assistance for tribal development is admissible. Utilisation of the special Central assistance for Minor Irrigation in Orissa was about Rs. 82 lakhs in 1987-88.

Amendment in election laws

*37. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government to effect comprehensive electoral reforms and to amend the election laws;

(b) whether there is any proposal to fix a *date line* for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Various proposals to bring about electoral reforms are under active consideration of the Government and they are likely to be finalised early.

Scientists working under 'scientists pool scheme'

*38. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scientists at present working in various laboratories under the "Scientists Pool Scheme"; and

(b) what are the main features of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The number of working Pool Officers in different types of organisations as on 30.6.88 is 625.

(b) Under the Scheme, young unemployed highly qualified scientists, technologists, medical personnel etc. (with Ph. D/M. Tech/MD or equivalent degrees) trained abroad or in India are provided temporary placement in institutions, preferably of their choice, or those where their expertise could be utilised properly, normally for a period of two years, with possibilities of extension of tenure by one year. During this period, they are paid salaries comparable to Scientist B, C & EI of CSIR, and are expected to look around for regular jobs. The selections are made by the UPSC on the recommendations of disciplinewise special recruitment boards on the basis of academic record, professional experience, research publications and their performance in interviews.

Selection to the Pool is a continuous process. Applications are received throughout the year and each subject field selection committee normally meets three to four times in a year. During the Calendar year 1987, 353 scientific and technical personnel joined the Pool, and 240 left it.

The scheme was started in 1958 and upto 30-6-1988, 8404 scientific and technical personnel have benefited from it. Of these 6498 returned from abroad after higher education/training. 625 persons were working under the scheme as on 30-6-1988. Of these nearly 48 per cent are scientists, about 44 per cent are medical personnel, and the rest 8 per cent are engineers and technologists etc.

Selected Pool Officers, wherever necessary, are assisted by CSIR in obtaining placement in suitable institutions in order